

REMARKS

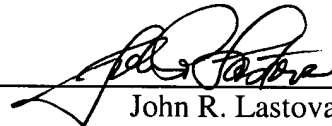
The Examiner requires election under 35 U.S.C. §121 between Group I, claims 1-9, and 17-34, and Group II including 10-16. Applicants elect without prejudice Group I, including claims 1-9 and 17-34. Claims 10-16 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to pursuing those patentably distinct, non-obvious claims in a divisional application. New dependent claims 35-37 have been added.

Examination on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____



John R. Lastova
Reg. No. 33,149

JRL:at
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100